Funds for construction of Chhattisgarh High Court

†538. SHRI RAMDHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be peased to state:

(a) the amount of funds demanded by State Government of Chhattisgarh for the construction of Chhattisgarh High Court and residential complex of Judges, Officers and employees;

(b) the details of the amount sanctioned/allocated so far; and

(c) the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHI): (a) An amount of Rs. 37.87 crore has been demanded by the State Governmet of Chhattisgarh for construction of High Court and residential complex of Judges, Officers and employees.

(b) and (c) Government of Chhattisgarh has been released an amount of Rs. 54 lakhs for this purpose in March, 2002. Planning Commission has allotted an amount of Rs. 18.00 crore during the current financial year for construction/extension of High Court buildings in various States.

However, the Government of Chhattisgarh is free to construct Judges residences with the funds released to them under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of infrastructural facilities for the judiciary. Construction of residential quarters for officers and employees of the High Court is not a permissible item under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme.

Pending civil Cases in U.P.

†539. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be peased to state:

(a) the number of civil cases pending in the Allahabad High Court and various district courts in Uttar Pradesh for the last five, ten, fifteen and twenty years;

(b) what is the number of such civil cases in Allahabad High Court, which were admitted for second appeal but have not been disposed of even after a lapse of three, five, and seven years, separately:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) what guidelines are being issued by Government for speedy disposal of civil cases; and

(d) by when civil cases pending for more than five years will be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHI): (a) As per the latest available information there were 7,47,021 civil cases pending in the Allahabad High Court as on 31.12.2001 and 10,73,234 civil cases were pending in various District Courts in Uttar Pradesh as on 30.06.2001.

The break up of pending civil cases are as follows:—

Allahabad High Court

Less than 5 years old	**5—10 Yesars old**	**Over 10 Years**
3,25,166	1,84,276	2,37,579

District Courts in Uttar Pradesh

Less than 3 Years old	**3—10 Years Old**	**Over 10 Years old**
6,54,750	3,32,823	85,661

(b) Civil cases in Allahabad High Court, which were admitted for second appeal but have not been disposed of even after a lapse of three, five and seven years are 7,12,614 and 569 respectively.

(c) The Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs has been requesting all the Chief Justices of the High Courts including Allahabad High Court from time to time, to initiate proposals for filling up the vacancies of Judges in the High Courts.

Various measures have been adopted by the High Courts for expeditious disposal of cases including classification and grouping of cases, computerization of records in High Courts, identification and listing of cases covered by the decisions finally made by the Supreme Court and High Court on the same point.

The Government have been compilling annual reports on pendency of cases including civil cases in High Courts and District Courts and forwarding them to the High Courts for their information and necessary

action. The High Courts have been requested to implement the recommendations of the Malimath Committee to streamline procedure which will, *inter-alia*, expedite disposal of pending cases. Further, the Government have also been constantly reviewing the accumulation of arears in courts. Besides increasing the judge strength from time to time, the Government have set up/encouraged alternative modes of dispute resolution including conciliation, mediation and arbitration. Special tribunals like Central Administrative Tribunal, State Administrative Tribunals, Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, Labour Courts, Consumer Courts etc., have been set up to expedite the disposal of cases. Information Technology is being used in generation of causelists, providing information to the Litigants/ Advocates etc., for speedy disposal of cases. A pilot project has been started for computerisation of City Courts in the four major metro cities of Delhi, Chennai, Kolkata and Mumbai.

Civil Procedure Code has been amended and the amendments have been brought into force with effect from 01.07.2002 which *inter-alia*, limit the number of adjournments which can be granted to a party to provide for speedy process service by speed post, courier services, fax or e-mail, authorise the court to fix time limit for oral arguments and to provide for a number of other measures aimed at ensuring expeditious disposal of cases.

(d) No time-frame can be fixed for disposal of civil cases pending for more than 5 years as this relates to substantive function of the Judiciary.

Proposal to increase the strength of judges

540. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked the State Governments to come with the proposals to increase the strength of judges by five times per million population as per the directions of the Supreme Court; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the State Government, so far?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHI): (a) and (b) The Supreme Court, in its judgement of